

Water issues flood council

by BUD MARTELLO

KIRTLAND - The combination of growing population, new sewer and water line installations and lots of rain has made for council meetings that have to deal with residents' complaints about water and how it drains off their property.

The city recently completed the installation of a new sanitary sewer system that reaches from Russelhurst to the Willoughby line along Chillicothe Road.

The water run-off from the rains into the east branch of the Chagrin has caused erosion problems along the banks of the river at 306 and Chillicothe, as well as further up stream. Replacement of water lines in Regency Woods and Rockwood subdivisions has left scars on people's properties that have yet to heal.

During the public comments section of the agenda, neighbors on Rockwood Drive, Mary Jane Mehling and Melody Perkes, rose to discuss the condition their property was left in after recent

construction of new water lines. Mehling passed before and after pictures of her property to council.

"I had a lawn of which I was quite proud," she said, "but now after Davis Diggers and Aqua Ohio got done, my property is a mess." Perkes said. "They told us that the seeding done was the best quality Osborn had, but all the rain has washed it and the straw they put down away. And what's more, cement trucks were cleaned out on our street, leaving concrete dust and debris all over. The fill they used on my lawn left rocks the size of my fist."

The pictures led Dave Kirek, councilman of Ward 2 to say, "I will tell you this, before I let these clowns from Aqua dig again in our community, they will be posting a large performance bond."

Then, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chamberlain of Hickory Hill Court came to ask council to help them alleviate a drainage problem. Councilman Tim Powell has been trying to solve their issue as well. Water drains from their neighbor's property onto theirs. The drainage problem

appears to have been caused by trucks using a ditch as an access leaving large ruts that direct the water across the neighbor's property onto theirs. The neighbor also feeds the deer from a fenced-in yard, and the deer end up on the Chamberlain property destroying their landscaping.

"Water run-off is getting worse, not better, and we need to do something about it," Powell said.

During the report section of the agenda, city engineer Phillip Kiefer told council he was applying for a grant to ameliorate the erosion on the banks of the east branch of the Chagrin at the bridge on 306, and up stream parallel to Chillicothe Road/Rte. 615.

The mayor agreed to tour the properties with the service director to see what could be done to alleviate the problems.

On another issue, Karen Daugherty of Crary Lane off Euclid-Chardon Road, rose to ask council to support her in an issue with the New Promise Church.

"We were told our privacy would be protected when this church was built. I will

be a very old lady by the time the two trees they planted grow enough to provide privacy to my home. Lights are on all the time, let alone looking out to see a paved parking lot - it's like living next door to a mall. We, the tax-paying public, get the shaft while the church pays no property tax. All I want is for them to do the right thing and restore my privacy," Daugherty said.

The mayor will investigate the situation.

In other business, several resolutions went on first reading. Proposals were made to increase the compensation of the mayor, setting the salary of the public safety director, and the salary of the service director.

The bid of Commercial Energy Services for the west wing air conditioning project for the community center was accepted.

Ordinance 11-O-47 went on first reading to amend section 210.01 of the codified ordinances of the city relating to the examination of registration records of candidates: written protests against unqualified candidates.